AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A toner comprising at least a pigment and a binder resin,

wherein a filtrate obtained by filtering a dispersion comprising 0.2 g of said toner dispersed in 100 ml of tetrahydrofuran through a filter with a pore size of 0.45 μm, when it is measured by a spectrophotometer, has:

~~a maximum absorption between 380 nm and 440 nm wherein the absorbance at the maximum absorption is 1 or higher;~~

~~a maximum absorption between 640 nm and 680 nm wherein the absorbance at the maximum absorption is 0.2 or higher; or~~

a maximum absorption between 490 nm and 560 nm wherein the absorbance at the maximum absorption is 0.15 or higher.

Claim 2 (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein said filtrate preferably has a ratio A/(A+B) of 0.1 or more for the peak detected at a wavelength of 410 nm or 540 nm by a UV detector, wherein A denotes the area of a region where the molecular weight exceeds 2,000 and B denotes the area of a region where the molecular weight is from 500 to 2,000, when measured by gel permeation chromatography.

Claim 3 (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein said filtrate has a basicity of 10 mmol/g or less.

Claim 4 (original): The toner according to claim 1, further comprising a charge control resin.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the charge control resin has a weight average molecular weight in the range from 2,000 to 50,000.

Claim 6 (original): The toner according to claim 1, further comprising a parting agent.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The toner according to claim 6, wherein said parting agent is a multifunctional ester compound.

Claims 8 and 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner has a volume average particle diameter (Dv) in the range from 3 to 10 μm, the ratio (Dv/Dp) of the volume

average particle diameter (Dv) to the number average particle diameter (Dp) in the range from 1 to 1.3, and the ratio (rl/rs) of the length (rl) to the breadth (rs) in the range from 1 to 1.2.

Claim 11 (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner has a tetrahydrofuran-insoluble content in the range from 0 to 80% by weight.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The toner according to claim 1, wherein an [[the]] aqueous extract solution ~~thereof~~ obtained by dispersing and heating 6 g of said toner in 100 g of ion-exchanged water for 10 minutes has a pH in the range from 4 to 7.

Claim 13 (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the number of particles of said pigment having the length of at least 0.2 μm, counted in an area of 100 μm x 100 μm of the toner having a thickness of 20 μm, which is prepared by melting the toner at a temperature of 170°C, is 50 or less.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method for producing a toner comprising a step of polymerizing, in an aqueous dispersion medium, a polymerizable monomer composition comprising a polymerizable monomer and a pigment, characterized in that said polymerizable monomer composition comprises an epoxy compound or an acid halide having radical polymerizability.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method for producing the toner according to claim 14, wherein the content of said epoxy compound or said acid halide is in the range from 0.1 to 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymerizable monomer.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method for producing the toner according to claim 14, wherein said polymerizable monomer composition further comprises a charge control resin.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method for producing the toner according to claim 14, wherein the charge control resin has a weight average molecular weight in the range from 2,000 to 50,000.

Claim 18 (new): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the charge control resin is a negative charge control resin.

Claim 19 (new): The toner according to claim 1, wherein a dispersion prepared by dispersing 6 g of the pigment in 100 g of water has a pH of less than 7.

Claim 20 (new): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the pigment is Pigment Red 122.